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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 VATICAN 001570

SIPDIS

DEPT. FOR T U/S BOLTON, EUR, EUR/WE-MENNUTI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/09/2013

TAGS: [PREL](#) [IZ](#) [IZ](#) [IZ](#) [VT](#) [VTPREL](#) [VTPREL](#)

SUBJECT: VATICAN LOOKING FORWARD: U/S BOLTON REVIEWS
POST-WAR IRAQ AND GLOBAL WMD THREATS WITH HOLY SEE FM AND
SENIOR OFFICIALS

REF: A. A) HARDT-PMAT 4/9 E-MAIL

[B](#). B) 02 VATICAN 5461
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CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR JIM NICHOLSON. REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

SUMMARY

[1](#)1. (C) HOLY SEE FOREIGN MINISTER TAURAN, CARDINAL STAFFORD, THE AMERICAN HEADS OF THE COUNCIL FOR LAITY, AND ITALIAN CARDINAL RUINI, WHO IS TE
PROFITING ON SUCH DISTRIBUTION, AND BOLTON ACCEPTED HIS OFFER. TAURAN AND OTHERS URGED THAT THE UN BE GIVEN AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN IRAQI RECONST
FROM NORTH KOREA, IRAN AND SYRIA. TAURAN WELCOMED BOLTON'S AFFIRMATION OF THE U.S. DESIRE TO INTENSIFY OUR EFFORTS TO OVERCOME THE CURRENT AR

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VATICAN RESPECTS WAR DECISION, LOOKS TO FUTURE

[1](#)2. (C) IN MEETINGS APRIL 9 WITH HOLY SEE FOREIGN MINISTER
JEAN LOUIS TAURAN, VICAR OF ROME AND HEAD OF THE ITALIAN CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS CARDINAL CAMILLO RUINI, AND SENIOR AMERICAN CARDINAL JAMES FRANC
WAR.

OFFER TO FACILITATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

[1](#)3. (C) IN LIGHT OF THE HOLY SEE'S PREOCCUPATION WITH THE
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION, TAURAN TOLD UNDER SECRETARY BOLTON THAT THE CHALDEAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN IRAQ HAD AN EFFECTIVE, WELL-ORGANIZED NETWORK I
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APOSTOLIC NUNCIO IN BAGHDAD, MONSIGNOR FERNANDO FILONI, HAD REPORTED TO TAURAN THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF NEUTRAL POINTS OF DISTRIBUTION, LOCAL MA
ASKED THE LOCAL BISHOPS TO MAKE THEMSELVES AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH U.S. FORCES AND HUMANITARIAN AID PROVIDERS, AND PROVIDED NAMES OF BISHOPS IN
DEPARTMENT'S POLITICAL-MILITARY ACTION TEAM. TAURAN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE SITUATION IN THE HOSPITALS WAS THE MOST DRAMATIC AND IN NEED C

UN ROLE

[1](#)4. (C) THE HOLY SEE HAS PUBLICLY SUPPORTED A PROMINENT ROLE FOR THE UN IN IRAQI RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION, AND CARDINALS RUINI AND STAFFORD AI

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	PERC-00	DS-00
	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	VCE-00	MED-07	NEA-00
	NSAE-00	DHS-00	PM-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	T-00
	EPAE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	G-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00
	/007W						

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O 131014Z APR 03
FM AMEMBASSY VATICAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
MERCOSUR COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

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DISSIPATE. BOLTON RESPONDED THAT THE UN WOULD, AS THE
PRESIDENT HAD STATED, PLAY A VITAL ROLE. HOWEVER, IT WAS
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IMPORTANT NOT TO GET BOGGED DOWN IN THEOLOGICAL DEBATES ABOUT THE NATURE OF THIS ROLE. THE ISSUE AT HAND WAS NOT WHETHER THE U.S. OR UN WOULD
UN WOULD PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE, BOLTON ASSURED HIS
INTERLOCUTORS. TAURAN CONCURRED THAT THIS WAS VITAL, AND OBSERVED THAT THE IRAQI PEOPLE WERE "INTELLECTUALLY WELL-EQUIPPED," WHICH WOULD FAC
APHORISM THAT "BOOKS WERE WRITTEN IN CAIRO, PRINTED IN LEBANON, AND READ IN BAGHDAD." BOLTON AFFIRMED THAT THE U.S. HAD NO DESIRE FOR A LONG
TURN AUTHORITY OVER TO IRAQI'S IN A SHORT TIME, THAT WOULD BE IDEAL."

THE BROADER WMD THREAT

15. (C) WITH ALL OF HIS VATICAN INTERLOCUTORS, BOLTON REVIEWED THE BROADER WMD THREAT, STRESSING THAT WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION ARE NOT MILIT ALL VATICAN INTERLOCUTORS EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH WHAT HAPPENS NEXT, NOTING FEARS THAT THE WAR ON IRAQ COULD BE FOLLOWED
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WITH OTHER ACTIONS AGAINST IRAN, SYRIA, OR NORTH KOREA. BOLTON MADE CLEAR THAT IRAQ WAS NOT A MODEL FOR NORTH KOREA, IRAN OR SYRIA, AND THAT TE CASES, AND THAT WE HOPED THESE COUNTRIES WOULD DRAW THE RIGHT LESSON FROM THE IRAQ EXAMPLE: THAT IT WAS NOT WORTH IT FOR THEM TO CONTINUE PURS THREATS TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE.

16. (C) TURNING TO SPECIFIC COUNTRIES, TAURAN FOCUSED FIRST ON NORTH KOREA, ABOUT WHICH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE HOLY SEE HAD LIMITED UNDERSTANDING PERSUADE NORTH KOREA TO ABANDON ITS PROGRAM. HE EMPHASIZED THAT WE WERE ACTIVELY TRYING TO ENGAGE CHINA AND RUSSIA TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED, WE RACE BETWEEN JAPAN AND CHINA.

17. (C) ON IRAN, BOLTON OUTLINED LONG-STANDING CONCERNS THAT IRAN WAS PURSUING A COMPLETE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM THAT WOULD GIVE THE IRANIANS THE
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NOTING THAT THE HOLY SEE FOUND THEY HAD GOOD RESULTS FROM TOP RUSSIAN LEADERSHIP, BUT THAT THERE WAS NO FOLLOW THROUGH FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE THE HOLY SEE REGARDED IRAN AS "A KEY COUNTRY" IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND URGED THAT WE SUPPORT ANY SIGNS OF A "DEMOCRATIC OPENING." BOLTON SAI TAURAN SAID HE BELIEVED THE BRITISH COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE WITH SYRIA, WHILE BOLTON NOTED THAT THE FRENCH COULD ALSO BE CONSTRUCTIVE.

REINVIGORATING MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

18. (C) BOLTON ASSURED TAURAN AND THE OTHER OFFICIALS THAT THE U.S. WAS COMMITTED TO REINVIGORATING OUR EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE ISRAELI-PALESTIN THAT THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN DISPUTE WAS "THE MOTHER OF ALL

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 AMAD-00 CIAE-00 INL-00 PERC-00 DS-00
VC-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 VCE-00 MED-07 NEA-00
NSAE-00 DHS-00 PM-00 IRM-00 SSO-00 SS-00 T-00
EPAE-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00 PRM-00 G-00 SAS-00 SWCI-00
/007W

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O 131014Z APR 03
FM AMEMBASSY VATICAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
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PROBLEMS" IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

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AVOIDING A CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS

19. (C) BOTH CARDINALS SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING PERCEPTIONS OF A CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS BETWEEN THE MUSLIM WORLD AND TE CHAIRING A MEETING IN LEBANON WHERE HE WAS SHARPLY CRITICIZED BECAUSE OF HIS AMERICAN NATIONALITY, AND SAID THE DEPTH OF HOSTILITY TOWARD THE U COUNTRIES.

OVERCOMING TRANSATLANTIC TENSIONS

110. (C) CARDINAL RUINI, ONE OF THE POPE'S CLOSEST COLLABORATORS AND SOMEONE CONSIDERED A POTENTIAL SUCCESSOR TO JOHN PAUL II, EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN FOR THE WEAKENING OF NATO AND THE UN AS A RES ITALIAN BISHOPS CONFERENCE, RUINI IS PLUGGED INTO THE DOMESTIC ITALIAN POLITICAL SCENE, AND CITED HIS CONCERN THAT ITALY -- WHICH USED TO BE PRO-U.S. -- WAS LOSING THIS ORIENTATION. HE CITED A SIMILAR WORRYING TREND IN GERMANY. HE NOTED A DISTRUST OF FRANCE, WHICH HE NOTED HARBORED GLOBAL
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AMBITIONS THAT WERE ALIEN TO ITALY AND GERMANY AFTER WWII. ALTHOUGH MOST ITALIANS REMAINED WARY OF THE FRENCH, RUINI WORRIED THAT THE FRENCH AI THAT THE U.S. MOTIVES WERE EXACTLY WHAT WE HAD SAID THEY WERE -- ELIMINATE THE WMD THREAT, END A BRUTAL DICTATORSHIP, AND GIVE THE IRAQI PEOPLE

COMMENT

111. (C) COMING ON THE MORNING OF THE COLLAPSE OF BAGHDAD, BOLTON'S VISIT SERVED TO PUT AN END TO THE PRE-WAR PERIOD OF DIVISION OVER THE NECES AND OUR BROADER AGENDA, INCLUDING THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT. A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE MEETINGS WITH OVER THIRTY MEMBERS OF INTERNAT IN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORTS. THE HOLY SEE IS CLEARLY READY TO MOVE ON FROM THE PERCEPTION OF DIVISION GENERATED BY THE RUN-UP TO WAR AND TO MOVE AHEAD WITH HUMANITARIAN RELIEF,
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A REINVIGORATED MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORT, AND CONTINUED EFFORTS TO BUILD BRIDGES BETWEEN THE CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM WORLDS. IN THIS REGARD, AN P POPULATION." THE RELEASE ALSO REITERATED THE VATICAN'S DESIRE TO PROVIDE NECESSARY ASSISTANCE AND TO WORK WITH ALL CONCERNED TO CREATE LASTIN

112. (C) U/S BOLTON DID NOT REVIEW THIS CABLE.

NICHOLSON

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